

Message

From: Verhalen, Frances [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DA20B77D29D744A3AAEC0CF67C7718BA-VERHALEN, FRANCES]
Sent: 5/6/2020 8:12:58 PM
To: Durant, Jennah [Durant.Jennah@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: PRESS RELEASE from Concerned Citizens of St. John Regarding Denka Emissions Data Report

Yes. ERG is a contractor. And yes to your questions.

Frances Verhalen, P.E., Chief
Air Monitoring & Grants Section
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Elm Street, Suite 500 (MC 6ARPM)
Dallas, TX 75270
214-665-2172
verhalen.frances@epa.gov

From: Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 06, 2020 2:55 PM
To: Verhalen, Frances <verhalen.frances@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PRESS RELEASE from Concerned Citizens of St. John Regarding Denka Emissions Data Report

Is ERG a contractor? So R6 sends the samples to the lab, the lab analyzes them, and sends the analysis back to R6?

From: Verhalen, Frances <verhalen.frances@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 06, 2020 2:51 PM
To: Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>; Leathers, James <Leathers.James@epa.gov>
Cc: Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>; Lannen, Justin <Lannen.Justin@epa.gov>; Casso, Ruben <Casso.Ruben@epa.gov>; Robinson, Jeffrey <Robinson.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Stucky, Marie <Stucky.Marie@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PRESS RELEASE from Concerned Citizens of St. John Regarding Denka Emissions Data Report

Jennah, we send the samples to ERG under a national ambient air monitoring contract. Now that we are sampling once every six days, we have negotiated to receive the sample results on a monthly basis. Because of COVID-19, the lab is running at short staff and on shifts to be socially distanced. We are experiencing a slight delay (about a week) in getting the data. As of this morning we are expecting a data package later this week or first of next week.

Fran

Frances Verhalen, P.E., Chief
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US Environmental Protection Agency
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214-665-2172
verhalen.frances@epa.gov

From: Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 06, 2020 2:43 PM
To: Verhalen, Frances <verhalen.frances@epa.gov>; Leathers, James <Leathers.James@epa.gov>
Cc: Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>; Lannen, Justin <Lannen.Justin@epa.gov>; Casso, Ruben

<Casso.Ruben@epa.gov>; Robinson, Jeffrey <Robinson.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Stucky, Marie <Stucky.Marie@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: PRESS RELEASE from Concerned Citizens of St. John Regarding Denka Emissions Data Report

Thanks, Fran and James. Fran--what lab sends the samples? Is there a set schedule for how often that's supposed to happen?

From: Verhalen, Frances <verhalen.frances@epa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, May 06, 2020 9:34 AM

To: Leathers, James <Leathers.James@epa.gov>; Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>

Cc: Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>; Lannen, Justin <Lannen.Justin@epa.gov>; Casso, Ruben <Casso.Ruben@epa.gov>; Robinson, Jeffrey <Robinson.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Stucky, Marie <Stucky.Marie@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: PRESS RELEASE from Concerned Citizens of St. John Regarding Denka Emissions Data Report

Jennah, I have additional internal information for Q2 if you want it.

And I see the EPA data monitoring sheet hasn't been updated since the end of March. Is it just updated quarterly?

The data is updated after the samples results are received from the analytical laboratory and reviewed for quality assurance by the EPA Regional office. EPA Region 6 has not received any new sample analyses later than March 24, 2020.

Do the results between January and March show improvement compared to what the St. John folks are indicating in their comparison of 2018 and 2019 data?

EPA continues to see a downward trend in the ambient air concentrations for chloroprene compared to samples collected before March 2018. In March 2018, Denka began full operation of newly installed controls which reduce the chloroprene being emitted. Without knowing how the St. John folks evaluated and analyzed their data, it is difficult to compare the two datasets.

Frances Verhalen, P.E., Chief
Air Monitoring & Grants Section
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Elm Street, Suite 500 (MC 6ARPM)
Dallas, TX 75270
214-665-2172
verhalen.frances@epa.gov

From: Leathers, James <Leathers.James@epa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, May 06, 2020 9:25 AM

To: Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>

Cc: Verhalen, Frances <verhalen.frances@epa.gov>; Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>; Lannen, Justin <Lannen.Justin@epa.gov>; Casso, Ruben <Casso.Ruben@epa.gov>; Robinson, Jeffrey <Robinson.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Stucky, Marie <Stucky.Marie@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: PRESS RELEASE from Concerned Citizens of St. John Regarding Denka Emissions Data Report

Hi Jennah,

I have coordinated and ARD (air program), and they will take the lead on drafting a response to the first two questions.

Regarding the following questions, please see our response below (approved by Air Enforcement Management). Let me know if you have any questions or edits. Also, it's worth noting that Enforcement and ARD have a briefing scheduled with the RA/DRA on Thursday 3-3:30 to summarize SPod data and receive feedback on our Draft SPod results sheet that we would like added to EPA's LaPlace website.

" And what is the status of the new continuous air monitoring program? In his Feb. 20 letter to DEQ Sec. Brown, regional administrator McQueen said it would be in place by the beginning of May"

EPA's new SPod monitoring network is installed and operational. SPods consist of a stationary photoionization detector (PID), a meteorological station to record weather data, and one or more summa canisters for sampling. The PID measures for total volatile organic compounds (VOC) in the ambient air and, when VOC concentrations reach a certain threshold, a canister will collect a sample that will be measured for chloroprene in a laboratory. The SPods are going through an initial phase of setting the VOC thresholds that will trigger canister sample collection. EPA expects to have chloroprene data from the SPod network posted soon on EPA's LaPlace, Louisiana - Air Monitoring website.

James Leathers
Environmental Engineer
EPA Region 6
Air Toxics Enforcement
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
1201 Elm St., Suite 500, ECDAT
Dallas, TX 75270
(214) 665-6569
leathers.james@epa.gov

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From: Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2020 12:17 PM

To: Leathers, James <Leathers.James@epa.gov>; Verhalen, Frances <verhalen.frances@epa.gov>; Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: PRESS RELEASE from Concerned Citizens of St. John Regarding Denka Emissions Data Report

Hi all—

Please see the below inquiry on Denka monitoring. What can we say about these questions?

Jennah

And I see the EPA data monitoring sheet hasn't been updated since the end of March. Is it just updated quarterly? Do the results between January and March show improvement compared to what the St. John folks are indicating in their comparison of 2018 and 2019 data?

And what is the status of the new continuous air monitoring program? In his Feb. 20 letter to DEQ Sec. Brown, regional administrator McQueen said it would be in place by the beginning of May.

From: Frances Madeson <francesmadeson@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 9:19 AM

To: francesmadeson@gmail.com

Subject: PRESS RELEASE from Concerned Citizens of St. John Regarding Denka Emissions Data Report

Concerned Citizens of St. John

CONTACT: Frances Madeson
412-616-0109



FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE
May 5, 2020

**Comparison of 2018 and 2019 Chloroprene Emissions Levels from Denka Dupont
Elastomer Plant Shows Levels Remain Frighteningly Unsafe with No Significant
Improvement**

**St. John residents horrified that outsized rates of risk for cancer and chronic illnesses
continue unabated**

Dear Valued Member of the Press:

Please find attached a Press Release from Concerned Citizens of St. John with Slides of the Monitoring Data. I am happy to liaise for interviews or provide any other needed information.

Thank you for your continued attention to this urgent health crisis.

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Frances Madeson
412-616-0109

<https://francesmadeson.com/>